

INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION HANDLING COMMITTEE
of the
UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

Office of the Chairman

IHC-MM-5/74
18 April 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: IHC Members and Alternates

I am very glad to be able to report to you that the IHC is going to recommence meeting on a regular basis. A significantly increased awareness now exists at top management levels of the size and importance of issues relating to information handling and information science, and of the necessity to apply this technology more effectively in serving intelligence analysts and operational users of intelligence products.

The DCI has stated that we now face the challenge to raise our sights from the file and retrieval aspects of information handling to an examination of new approaches to the ways in which machines and language can support and supplement the human intellect in perceiving and analyzing situations. A whole new dimension is added, taking us well beyond the common past view of information technology. The DCI has recently appointed a Special Assistant, [redacted] to address in broadest and most imaginative terms, new dimensions that can impact on the future manner in which the content of intelligence can be conveyed and presented. Both the DCI and [redacted] will join us for a portion of the forthcoming IHC meeting.

25X1

25X1

There is a general recognition that information handling must concern itself in depth with the present and future needs of users of intelligence, both within and beyond the intelligence community. User needs are the driving force to be served by technology. Further, the evolution of ADP and telecommunications necessitates that those two technical areas be treated integrally. To this end, the IHC will involve itself explicitly with community telecommunications matters.

25X1

Attached is the agenda for our meeting on 24 April. Following the practice of my predecessor, we will schedule full committee meetings for two hour work sessions, 1000-1200 hours. At this initial meeting, however, I hope you will be able to be present at 0930 hours, and we will have an informal coffee period in the office of General Graham, D/DCI/IC, prior to moving across the hall to the DCI's conference room to meet with Mr. Colby promptly at 1000.

25

The agenda and attached problem statements are forwarded for your preliminary consideration. The four problem statements that we have drafted are not intended to present you with decisions already taken. They are, rather, intended to present you with a frame of reference so that you may be better prepared to offer your own comments and recommendations.

We have a very full agenda, and will probably be unable to accomplish it all in the depth that we would like. I particularly want to make as much time in our two hours as possible available to the IHC members to express their own views, not only on the four papers we are forwarding, but particularly on what issues you consider to be the most timely and significant that the IHC should address in order to improve community effectiveness.

Finally, what I think is different in our present situation--with reference to our management responsibilities in information handling and telecommunications--is that we are now presented with a unique opportunity. The top levels of management today are seriously concerned with the future of these matters, and the degree of that interest is significantly greater than it has been in past years. There is also increasing awareness that future planning must take account of total community needs and impacts. The challenge for us individually and as a committee is to find ways to make productive use of this opportunity, and translate it into practical operational mechanisms and techniques that serve the diversified users of intelligence products. There is no doubt that we will be judged specifically by that criterion.

25

Acting Chairman

Atts

IHC-A-54
18 April 1974

AGENDA

for

54th IHC Meeting
Room 7D64 (DCI Conference Room)
CIA Hqs. Bldg.
Wednesday, 24 April 1974, 1000 Hours*

- 5X1
1. DCI visit with the IHC - Mr. William E. Colby
 2. Purpose, scope and objectives of the reconstituted
USIB Intelligence Information Handling Committee -
[redacted] Acting Chairman, IHC
 3. Comments by Special Assistant to the DCI - [redacted] 25
 4. New IHC working methodology - AC/IHC
 - a. Meetings
 - b. Organizational considerations
 - c. Priorities
 5. New IHC Initiatives - AC/IHC
 - a. Community inventory update
 - b. Community data standards program
 - c. Community terminal study for improvement of:
 - (1) Crisis management and indications and warning activities
 - (2) Analytic efforts
 - d. Community telecommunications study
 6. IHC member roundtable - Open discussion

*Note - Coffee will served from 0930-1000 hours in Room 7E13 Hqs.,
(Office of D/DCI/IC). Please come directly to this office.

18 April 1974

Community Inventory Update

A. Statement of the Problem

1. The IHC has been requested to provide for the DCI on a priority basis an updated and improved community inventory. The most recent version was compiled by the IHC in 1972.
2. The content of the inventory encompasses ADP facilities, computer systems, data files, computer telecommunications facilities, and related funding parameters.
3. The IHC has been requested to provide a preliminary response to the DCI's office by 1 May 1974, and a target date of 1 June 1974 has been given to us for completing the project.

B. Facts Bearing on the Problem

1. The compilation of the inventory requires that such terms as "system", "file", etc. be defined and accepted at the outset.
2. This effort should be conducted in a manner to make the product generally useful to all members and worth the significant effort required to collect and analyze the information.

C. Proposal for IHC Action

1. In order to meet a May 1st deadline, it will be necessary to use the IHC as a whole as a working body to provide the requisite inputs.
2. IHC members are requested to review, prior to the IHC meeting on 24 April 1974, the document entitled Inventory of Community Information Handling Systems (S), dtd 1 August 1972, and be prepared to discuss at this meeting the initial update of the information described therein.
3. Be prepared to discuss the addition to such a publication of file descriptions and appropriate comments on present and planned resource allocations associated with the respective "systems."

18 April 1974

Community Data Standards Program

A. Statement of the Problem

The need for a continuing data standards effort is becoming more acute as the interchange of data in machinable form becomes more common within the community and as the prospects grow greater for presenting intelligence products to consumers in machinable form.

B. Facts Bearing on the Problem

1. The Federal Standards Program, which extends to all elements of the Federal Government, makes provision for the existence of agency and department standards and for program standards, e.g., in the National Intelligence Program. The effort on Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) (under which DCID 1/15 and the IHC data standards effort fits) is assigned to the National Bureau of Standards' Institute for Computer Science and Technology.

2. At the community level, which IHC represents, definition of needs for data standards has been restricted to the exchange of data in machine-sensible form among members of the community. (Internal agency standards efforts may serve departmental as well as intelligence community standards.) Where defined needs have been satisfied, this has been done either by adopting an applicable FIPS (standards for Date and Country Code) or through making one community member the Assigned Responsible Agency (ARA) for developing a standard (e.g., the Armed Services Grade Standard by DIA).

3. The IHC Standards Panel has served to define community needs, identify FIPS which meet them or negotiate assignment of an ARA, and to review and submit proposed standards (whether FIPS or a community standard) to the IHC for adoption and USIB promulgation.

C. Proposal for IHC Action

1. Reenergize the existing Standards Panel. Request IHC members to designate or confirm Data Standards Panel representatives.

2. Draft an update of 1/15 for submission to the DCI for consideration.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

Approved For Release 2005/02/17 : CIA-RDP79M00062A001300010018-7

18 April 1974

3. Direct the Data Standards Panel to mount an energetic effort in data standardization, extending its scope to provide for exchanges with intelligence users and interfacing systems such as WWMCCS and tactical intelligence systems.

4. As general guidance, the Panel will be directed to identify and focus its efforts on specific problems which require priority attention in order to realize significant progress in the presentation and use of substantive intelligence and intelligence management data.

Approved For Release 2005/02/17 : CIA-RDP79M00062A001300010018-7

C O N F I D E N T I A L

18 April 1974

Community Terminal StudyA. Statement of the Problem

1. There currently exists within the Intelligence Community a melange of concepts, proposals and uncoordinated actions concerning the dissemination and display of collected and processed data. The problem is particularly acute in the developmental electronic information systems.

a. If the several efforts now underway are brought to fruition, the Intelligence Community will be operating numerous separate, secure "real time" video exchange systems in a few years.

b. Modern computer and electronic display technology, if not applied on a coordinated Community-wide basis, could result in an extensive waste of resources and actually deter efficient and effective operations.

c. There is a risk that the intelligence analyst as well as the operational user of intelligence will be handicapped rather than helped by having forced upon him, without full understanding of his needs and modus operandi, an excessive number of individual systems each possessing its unique characteristics.

2. As a result there is a strong requirement to back off and scope this problem before individual elements of the community become so heavily committed on a single course of action, or data handling system, that they cannot be persuaded or will be unable to move toward compatibility of systems, to the extent that compatibility proves to be desirable.

3. There is at present no community-wide official focal point addressing this problem in its broadest aspects. The subject matter falls within the responsibility of the IHC.

B. Facts Bearing on the Problem

The needs stated by the highest policy levels to improve the capabilities for Crisis Management and to improve the quality and timeliness of the intelligence product make it appropriate to address this large problem as a matter of priority.

C. Proposal for IHC Action

1. The IHC members are requested to consider a suitable community-wide approach to give visibility to this problem.
2. It is proposed that a 3-4 month study be undertaken to survey and report on the current status of this subject, including significant plans for future development.
 - a. The study will focus primarily on the use of terminals to exchange Crisis Management information and to perform Indications and Warning functions, as well as the use of community terminals to help intelligence analysts provide more timely and useful intelligence products.
 - b. The terminal study should give particular attention to user needs and the user environment. By contrast, the telecommunications study (proposed separately) focuses more particularly on communications.
3. The study will provide a basis for recommendations to the DCI, and if appropriate, for subsequent policy level guidance to the community.

18 April 1974

Community Telecommunications Study

A. Statement of the Problem

1. Improved procedures and mechanisms are required for dissemination and communication of time-sensitive intelligence information to analysts and operational users. The need is based on current instructions from high policy levels to improve Crisis Management and Intelligence and Warning capabilities.

2. At present, there is no active USIB body which concerns itself with community telecommunications in support of the intelligence production and dissemination functions.

3. The IHC has taken prior initiatives^{iv} in this area. These include the IHC-sponsored Indications and Warning Information (IWIN) Study, and the Intelligence Data Exchange-Washington (IDEW) Study. Although both studies recommended a community-cohesive planned expansion of community telecommunications facilities, no coordinated action has been taken.

B. Facts Bearing on the Problem

1. Within the past year, ASD(I) and JCS have begun participation in IHC activities.

2. Within its area of responsibility, the IHC is the existing vehicle to focus on these broader considerations. This requires an overall community assessment of current and planned telecommunications upgradings and interfacings.

C. Proposal for IHC Action

1. The IHC members are requested to consider a suitable community-wide approach to give visibility to this problem.

a. A study of this topic involves the collection and presentation of factual data on existing and currently

*25X1
Talked to re
TWG - to mention
as an official
action to place
under IHC*

C O N F I D E N T I A L

Approved For Release 2005/02/17 : CIA-RDP79M00062A001300010018-7

18 April 1974

proposed telecommunications facilities and programs within the community as well as their planned modes for interaction with the larger operational community.

b. Considerations of efficiency and cost/effectiveness are involved in relation to possible upgrading of facilities and systems.

c. An important focus is the user of these capabilities. Means to maximize the value of technological capabilities in the service of intelligence production and dissemination to users are a key consideration.

2. In the light of these considerations, it is proposed that the IHC undertake a 3-4 month study to survey and report on the current status of this subject, and on the basis of this report to make appropriate recommendations to the DCI.